

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 24, 2012

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 6, 2012

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

## Assembly Joint Resolution

**No. 29**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Allen**  
(Principal coauthor: Senator Leno)

February 24, 2012

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Assembly Joint Resolution No. 29—Relative to ~~honeybees~~.  
*pollinators*.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 29, as amended, Allen. Pollinators.

This measure would urge the United States Department of Agriculture, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the California Department of Food and Agriculture, *the California Department of Fish and Game*, and the California Department of Pesticide Regulation to officially recognize the importance of pollinators to our food supply and environment, to declare the urgency of Colony Collapse Disorder, and to promote healthy environments for all pollinators.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Bees and other pollinators are essential to the
- 2 majority of the flowering plants on our planet and to the production
- 3 of more than 130 different food crops; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Some farmers and growers depend on pollinators
- 5 for seed production for crops grown in subsequent years; and

1 WHEREAS, Honeybees are the main pollinators on which we  
2 depend, but native pollinators, such as other species of bees, are  
3 also essential; and

4 WHEREAS, Almonds, apples, apricots, avocados, blueberries,  
5 carrots, cantaloupes, cherries, cucumbers, cranberries, kiwis,  
6 melons, onions, pears, plums, prunes, and more, depend on  
7 honeybee pollination; and

8 WHEREAS, Poor pollination leads to poor fruit development;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Pollinators are responsible for one out of every  
11 three bites of food that we eat; and

12 WHEREAS, In 2006, honeybees in the United States began  
13 disappearing in large numbers—a phenomenon called “colony  
14 collapse disorder”; and

15 WHEREAS, Multiple, interacting causes are likely contributors  
16 to “colony collapse disorder,” including pathogens, habitat loss,  
17 and pesticides; and

18 WHEREAS, Each year since 2006, commercial beekeepers have  
19 reported annual losses of bees in excess of what would be  
20 considered normal; and

21 WHEREAS, Honeybees are a keystone indicator species and  
22 their decline points to broader environmental degradation; and

23 WHEREAS, Pollinator population declines may be a  
24 disproportionately significant piece of the current collapse in  
25 biodiversity that some biologists believe poses an even greater  
26 threat to humanity than climate change, which contributes to it;  
27 now, therefore, be it

28 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*  
29 *California, jointly*, That the Legislature urges the United States  
30 Department of Agriculture (USDA), the United States  
31 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the California  
32 Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), *the California*  
33 *Department of Fish and Game (DFG)*, and the California  
34 Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR), to officially recognize  
35 the critical importance of pollinators to our food supply and to our  
36 environment; and be it further

37 *Resolved*, That the Legislature urges the EPA, the USDA, the  
38 CDFA, *the DFG*, and the CDPR to declare the urgency of Colony  
39 Collapse Disorder, as well as for further identifying the reasons  
40 underlying Colony Collapse Disorder; and be it further

1     *Resolved*, That the Legislature urges the EPA, the USDA, the  
2     CDFA, *the DFG*, and the CDPR to promote healthy environments  
3     for all pollinators through existing programs and new funding  
4     opportunities; and be it further

5     *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
6     of this resolution to the office of the Governor, the Secretary of  
7     the Senate, and the author for appropriate distribution.

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